

Rosalind, M., and Jac. J. Janssen. 1996. Growing up in Ancient Egypt. London: The Rubicon Press.

This book deals with children, giving special emphases to childbirth, toys, games, circumcision, education, and opinions of children. After childbirth, names given to children could be physical qualities, statements, wishes, word said by mother at birth or even the day of the birth.

Mothers nursed, but still had wet-nurses. Wet-nursing would result in co-nursing and the wet-nurse's child was thought to be connected to the elite child she was nursing. This could lead to high rank positions for the poor child. Mother's breast milk, when she had a son, was used as a medicine. To prevent disease children were breast fed to 3 to 4 years of age.

Children usually remained naked until puberty. The Middle Kingdom started seeing more children dressed like parents, and the New Kingdom children were both naked and dressed. Children's hair was usually in a braided plait and sometimes had jewelry on the end of it. Children played in various sports, such as dancing and wrestling. Egyptians had toys for their children, ranging from simple to more complex - like tops and rattles. Parents mostly educated their children, especially in the early years. The Middle Kingdom brought the existence of school for boys. Boys also experienced a puberty rite, which consisted of a ceremony in which a circumcision was performed. Evidence from the writing indicates that circumcision in early ages was probably performed on all boys; while in later years it became voluntary and mostly done on high ranked officials.

The opinion the Egyptians had for their children are shown in their writings. Hieroglyphs sometimes depict family scenes. Egyptians also have more words for children than in English. Their words do not seem to indicate age. Some indicate social rank and others name children between the ages of 10-20. The vagueness of the words for children is associated with the Egyptian attitude toward children. Despite their affectionate attitude, they still thought of children as not quite an adult. They wanted children out of a need to keep their memory alive. Boys and girls were both wanted, but boys were favored.